

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace first paragraph on page 8, beginning at line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

An exemplary design of the manually activated postage meter is shown in Figures 5a to 5d. As shown in Figures 5a and 5b, postage meter **130** has frame **134** for fixedly mounting upper body **140**, and movably mounting lower body **160** so as to allow lower body **160** to move relative to upper body **140** along direction **110**. Upper body **140** includes control box **142** for housing a plurality of components, which are not shown, including print head **2**, print head control **4**, movement restraining means **6**, and sensor **8**. Movement restraining means **6** is operatively engaged with latching device **144**, which is capable of stopping gear **146** from moving when latching device **[148]144** is lodged between two of the teeth **148**. Upper body **140** has plate **150**, which is connected to a locking mechanism **154**, for fixedly mounting to frame **134**. Plate **150** also has restricting end piece **152**. The lower body **160** has inner wall **162** movably mounted to frame **134** for linear motion along direction **110**. Lower body **160** further includes lower frame **170**, which is fixedly mounted to inner wall **162**, and upper plate **164** extended from inner wall **162**. Lower frame **170** includes a number of shafts **172** for rotatably mounting plurality of roller supports **174**. Number of rollers **176** are rotatably mounted on roller supports **174**. Rollers **176** allow substrate **100** to be fed into lower body **160** between upper plate **164** and rollers **176**, as shown in Figure 5c. Upper plate **164** also has end structure **168** fixedly mounted thereon. End block **165** has vertical wall **166** to serve as a registration wall, which stops substrate **100** when substrate **110** is fed into lower body **160** for printing. As shown in Figure 5a, upper plate **164** has opening **180**, allowing print head **2** (not shown) inside control box **142** to print indicium **80** or other image or text on substrate **100**. Once substrate **100** is properly fed into lower body **160**, the user can move lower body **160** along with substrate **100** along direction **110** for printing. Preferably, roller supports **174** are spring-loaded to provide an upward urging force against substrate **100** for securing substrate **100** between upper plate **164** and rollers **174**. The user can push lower body **160** using end structure **168**

for moving lower body **160**. After the printing is completed, lower body **160** is moved over a certain distance along direction **110**, as shown in Figure 5d. Preferably, end block **165** is movably mounted on end structure **168**. When the printing is completed, the end block can be moved upward so that substrate **100** can be retrieved from the front end of lower body **160**. However, before the printing is completed, restricting end piece **152** prevents end block **165** from being completely displaced upward, as shown in Figures 5a- 5c.

Please replace first paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 6a – 6f are timing diagrams illustrating the time relationship between the print head, the print-head control, the movement restraining means and the sensor in a postage meter, with reference to time axis **T**, as shown in Figure 6g. As shown in Figure 6a, timing sequence **302** represents the print signal of the postage meter. The printing signal enables the print head at $t=t_0$ after a substrate is properly fed into the postage meter (see Figure 5c, for example). From t_0 to t_2 , the print head prints a line on the substrate, as represented by the first pulse on time sequence **304**, as shown in Figure [3b]6b. At the end of the line, the print head control conveys a signal to the movement restraining means, as indicated by the first pulse in time sequence **306** between t_1 and t_2 , as shown in Figure [3c]6c. When print head **2** is printing, the movement restraining means is activated, as indicated by the first pulse on time sequence **310** starting at $t=t_0$, as shown in Figure 6e. The movement restraining means is deactivated at t_2 . Once the movement restraining means is deactivated, the substrate is allowed to move relative to the print head by a distance substantially equal to the width of a printed line. By then, the sensor activates the movement restraining means, as indicated by the first pulse on time sequence **312** between t_3 and t_4 , as shown in Figure 6f. Subsequently, the print head prints a new line starting at t_4 , as shown in time sequence **304**. The print cycle repeats until the last line is printed. The last line is printed by the print head from t_n to t_{n+2} , as shown on time sequence **304**. A last line signal, as shown in time sequence **308** of Figure [3d]6d, is provided to override

the end of line signal (time sequence **306**) between t_{n+1} and t_{n+2} . The movement restraining means is not activated again after the last line is printed. The system is reset after a new substrate is fed into the postage meter for printing. The last line signal puts an end to the printing process, as indicated by the negative-going edge at t_{n+2} on time sequence **302**.

Please replace first paragraph on page 10, beginning at line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The method of synchronizing the print speed of a digital print head and the relative movement of a substrate is illustrated in flow chart **200** of Figure 7. As shown, the power switch of the postage meter is turned on at step **202**. The user is prompted to feed a substrate and to select or type in data for printing at step **204**. The print head is activated or enabled at step **206** and the movement restraining means is activated at step **208** to restrict the relative movement between the substrate and the print head. The print head starts printing a line at step **210**. When the printed line is completed, i.e., it is the end of the line, as shown at step **212**, the movement restraining means is deactivated at step **214**. The method will remain at step 212 if it is not the end of the line. If the printed line is not the last line in step 216, the sensor activates the movement restraining means and determines at step[s] 218 [after the substrate has moved into a new position for printing the next line.] if it is at the next position. If it is not at the next position, it will remain in step 218. If it is at the next position, it will go to step 208 to activate the movement restraint. If the printed line is the last line in step 216, the user is prompted to feed a new substrate and to specify the data for printing the new substrate in step 204.